

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1896.

Subscription by Mail Post-Paid. DAILY, Per Month..... DAILY, Per Year .... BUNDAY, Per Year ND SUNDAY, Per Year .. Postage to Foreign Countries added. THE SUN, New York city.

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LOCAL NEWS.—The City and Suburban News Burea of the United Phins and New York Associate Prima is at 21 to 29 Ann airset. All information an documents for public use instantly disseminated the press of the whole country.

#### A Matter of Necessity.

Under ordinary circumstances the DAVIS resolution restoring the Monroe doctrine to its original force might not have been nec essary at this juncture. If to-day that feature of American policy were intact and unquestionable so far as any official public expressions from Congress or from the White House were concerned, the reasser tion of it would be merely a question of momentary expediency. But together with President CLEVELAND's Venezuela messag there came from him a lamentable proposi tion, which practically knocked the bottom out of the principle proclaimed by President MONROE, despite the show of resolution over the Venezuela boundary. The conclusive argument for the DAVIS resolution has been created by President CLEVELAND him-

like declaration that the United States could not view with indifference the implanting of greater European power upon this conti nest, through any means, bargain or sale, Mr. CLEVELAND has said complacently that any adjustment of boundary which Venezuela may deem for her advantage and may enter into of her own free will cannot, of course, be objected to by us." Such an admission, so destructive of the principal defence of this country's interest, cannot stand. Already it appears in the British retorts in the Venezuela ques tion. "Here," says Mr. Moreton Frewer in the National Review, pointing to this sentence, "is a precedent for the abandon-

Instead of holding true to the statesman

ment of the entire Monroe doctrine." It was a slip of diplomatic weakness which must be righted, or in the next century of the world's development, possibly the most astounding of its history, it will plague us continually or bring to us at once harm which will be irremediable.

The President's responsibility for this error can be passed over as a fault of inadvertence; but woe to the men who, by opposing the resolution now before the Senate, deliberately refuse to mend the breach in our declaration of international independence, and to make the attitude of this coun try toward the great colonizers of Europe again as clear and self-defending as when JAMES MONBOE first put it into words.

The DAVIS resolution contains nothing of bluster. It is conceived in no spirit of braggadocio toward England, or of lack of respect for our sister republics of the Western continent. Their interests are ours, and ours are theirs. But while the political status of many makes it possible for some successful revolutionist to be seduced into selling a portion of his betrayed country to a foreign Government, and while American islands like Cuba are in the hands of impe cunious countries like Spain, the DAVIS resolution demands the solid support of the American Congress.

## Senator Cullom Is Right.

Senator Cullon of Illinois is under no fliusion with regard to the nature of our present relations with Great Britain. He recognizes that the appointment of the Commission has simply as a brief stay of proceedings, and that the instant a report is made, provided such report does not sustain the claim of British Guiana, we stand committed by our Federal Executive and Legislature to the peremptory declaration that England must choose between war and a submission of the whole boundary question to arbitration.

There is probably not a human being on either side of the Atlantic who believes that the Commission will sustain the pre tensions of British Guiana to even that part of the disputed territory which lies east of the sham Schomburgk line. Such being the universal expectation concerning the outcome of the Commission's researches, Senator CULLOM sees distinctly that it will not do for the American people to remain passive, and delude themselves with the iden that England cannot afford to go to war with us, and does not mean to do so, He perceives that, as a matter of fact, England is evine ing the utmost vigilance and vigor in preparitions for the contingency of an armed conflict. His conclusion is that ordinary prudence and a decent sense of public duty should cause Congress, without the loss of an hour, to provide for the efficient protectim of our seacoasts and the energetic de velopment of our military and naval power

There is absolutely no foundation for the

talk current in ill-informed British news papers about the likelihood of the boundary controversy being settled by an agreement between England and Venezuela on the basis of conceding to British Guiana the districts now occupied by British subjects. while the title to the rest of the disputed territory may be referred to arbitrators. This silly notion is put forward with especial emphasis by the journal which for weeks maintained the sanctity of the derisory Schomburgk line. If this newspaper -we refer to the London Times-were any better qualified to discuss the boundary question than it was to detect the Piggot forgeries, it would know that its assertion that the first advance to negotiations must come from Venezuela is sheer nonsense. President CRESPO is legally unable to make any such overture. Why? We will make the London Times a present of the information that in 1887 the Venezuelan Congress passed a law, which public opinion at Caracas will not permit the present Congress to repeal, forbidding the Executive of that republic to reopen diplomatic relations with Great Britain until the British Government should agree to submit the entire frontier controversy to arbitration. From this law, which was the natural outcome of England's persistence for forty years in the determination to bully and dismember a weak American common wealth, it follows that the first advance must come from the British Government, in the form of a proposal to refer the title to the whole of the disputed territory, in-

nimowever, for the sake of Venezulan law in quesargume' which his that it will be speed tion new fly repeal

would still be impossible for President CRESPO, no matter how strongly inclined he might be personally to a compromise, to concede by treaty the ownership of settled districts to England, without waiting for the alleged title of British Guiana to such districts to be adjudged valid by arbitrators. Why? We will give the London Times another piece of information which it has not obtained from its New York correspondent. The constitution of Venezuela positively forbids the Executive, or the Executive and Legislature acting together, to alienate one square inch of the national domain. President CRESPO is, therefore, constitutionally powerless to acknowledge England's ownership of such sections of the disputed territory as have been settled by British subjects until a Board of arbitration shall declare that such sections are not included in Venezuela's territory. An assent on his part to the compromise project, ignorantly mooted by the London Times, would require a constitutional amendment, the mere suggestion of which would cost him his office and probably his life.

There is one basis, and one basis only, on which the Caracas Government can resume negotiations with the British Foreign Office in regard to the frontier controversy. That basis is the complete reversal of the position stiffly maintained by Lord SALISBURY since he first became Prime Minister in June. 1885, when he at once refused to carry out the agreement made by Lord GRANVILLE on May 15 of the same year to refer the whole of the boundary dispute with Venezuela to arbitration. There is not an atom of evidence that Lord SALISBURY has the slightest intention of totally surrendering the ground

#### Singular Nonsense from a Boston Thinker.

ing for the contingency of war.

on which he has stood inflexibly for ten

years past. For this reason Senator CULLOM

is unquestionably right when he warns Con-

gress that no time should be lost in prepar-

Mr. EDWARD ATKINSON'S programme for the Venezuela Commission differs in some respects from that which was arranged by Congress and the President.

In a letter to the Massachusetts Reform Club, Mr. ATKINSON advances the wonder fulldea that the Venezuela boundary dispute ought to be settled, like any question of land title, "by adjudication upon the facts," before an international tribunal or court; but he fails to offer any distinct suggestion concerning the erection or constitution of this court. The one thing that seems to be clear in his mind is that, "if a court of adjudication were appointed, the function of our Commissioners lately named by the President would be to appear ex parte with the advocates of Venezuela, so as to present her side of that question of law to be determined on the facts."

But even this transformation of the functions of the American Commissioners from those of investigators and judges to those of mere advocates or attorneys before a higher tribunal, will not satisfy Mr. ATKIN-SON. He wants to set Mr. Justice BREWER and his colleagues at work upon matters not contemplated by Congress or by the Executive when the Commission was established. No wilder nonsense has been written recently by any person supposed to be sane than these suggestions of Mr. ATKINSON to the Massachusetts Reform Club:

" Never before has such an opportunity been given has been appointed by the President. Not only must these pending questions be settled, but agreements

may be proposed to assure the future of peace:
"First, to abolish privateering.
"Secondly, to make it a port of international law that cities which are not themselves fortified shall not be bombarded or damaged when no resistance is

offered: that being the rule of war upon the land.
"Thirdly, that the Sandwich Islands, Samoa, and,
p-rhaps, ports at remote points of continents shall be neutralized, and, under the joint protection of the great naval powers, made sanctuaries for the free merce of the world, where no hostile shot shall

Fourthly, that the interoceante canals shall be neutralized by joint agreement."

We confess some surprise that in laving out tasks for the Venezuela Commissioners beyond the limits described by the terms of their appointment, Mr. ATKINSON has not thrown in a few additional items: Fifthly, the neutralization of such ports

as New York, London, San Francisco, Southampton, Hamburg, Marseilles, Odessa, and Rio Janeiro;

Sixthly, free trade and the abolition of all Custom Houses throughout the earth: Seventhly, full moons on every night of the month, by joint agreement of the great naval powers, to prevent blockade running; Eighthly, the universal use of gas for cu linary purposes in the interest of economical

housekeeping. These subjects are quite as well within the province of the Venezuela Commission as those which Mr. ATKINSON has brought to

its attention. What is the matter with the Boston philosopher? Mr. EDWARD ATKINSON has been regarded as a lucid writer, whatever may have been thought of the merit of his views. We have read three several times his letter on the Monroe doctrine and the duties of the Venezuela Commission, with increasing solicitude about the condition of his intellectuals. He had better confine his thoughts for a time to the simple problems of civilization, such, for example, as gas cooking stoves and six-cent dinners.

In South America. One year ago, or on Jan. 13, 1895, a conference of the Ministers of the more important republics of South America was held at Buenos Ayres, the capital of the Argentine Republic. When we say that there were at the conference the Ministers of Brazil, Chili, and Argentina, it will be understood that the three chief powers of that continent, dominant over more than three-quarters of its territory, and containing by far the greater part of its population were represented. The question before the conference was that of forming a friendly alliance for the purpose of disarmament The design was to draw up a plan by which the military and naval forces of the three Governments might be established upon a peace footing; and we believe that the originator of the design was that accomplished Spanish-American diplomatist, Minister Costa. It was thought that disarmament would tend to prevent wars between the republics, and it did not seem that any of them would have occasion for defence against any of the powers of Europe. The programme was for peace and amity; and we took occasion to speak highly of it when we learned from Buenos Ayres of its existence, a year ago.

There has been an extraordinary change within the past year. The idea of disarmament has been dismissed from Brazil, Argentina, Chili, and any other Latin-Ameri can Government that may have entertained cluding the settle as well as the unsettled it. They have all learned that their inde-districts, tange witertial tribunal. pendence is in danger from foreign assault; pendence is in danger from foreign assault; that one of the powers of Europe may at any time invade their territory; that England can find a cause of quarrel with any of

gaining an advantage. England made a display of force against Nicaragua and thus gained her end; she has got up a quarre with Venezuela over a question of boundary she has recently threatened to take from Brazil the Brazilian island of Trinidad, and she has had correspondence of an unpleasant kind with the Government of Argentina. Her wrongdoing in the case of Venezuela has been especially flagrant, and has created apprehension in every country of South America. Not one of these countries can now entertain the thought that it is safe against Europe, or, at least, as against one of the powers of Europe. Not one of them can think that it would be desirable to disarm, or to reduce its military and naval forces to a peace footing. It was a pacific fancy in which the three greatest of them indulged one year ago. That fancy has fled and it is not likely to return until allgrasping England's insolence has been somewhat curbed.

It is the "robber of the world" that has brought about this unhappy change. That robber, having appropriated the choice spots of Africa and of Asia, now seeks for further aggrandizement in South America. How is that pursuit of other people's goods to be put a stop to?

It was said in the despatch sent here from Buenos Ayres on Jan. 14 of last year that the three South American republics which have been named, after forming an alliance for peace through disarmament, would ask the United States to become an umpire in any dispute that might arise between them. so that any resort to arms might be made unnecessary. We may say that, in all its features, and in every respect, the project of Minister Costa was as sound a one as ever was devised for the advantage of South America. The prospect was enchanting. But now, after a year, project and prospect are beyond our vision.

It is England, self-aggrandizing England. that must be held responsible for the illomened change. It is she who, as we have just learned through despatches from Rio le Janeiro and Buenos Ayres, has compelled Brazil and Argentina, both desirous of disarmament a year ago, to make energetic preparations for the defence of their independence and their rights.

#### An Extraordinary Jury Bill.

We have received from Albany a copy of an extraordinary bill, which has been introduced in the Assembly by Mr. George C. AUSTIN of this city, and is now under consideration by the Judiciary Committee.

It relates to jurors in criminal cases in New York and Brooklyn, and is designed to provide for a special class of jurymen to try accused persons, where the case is important or intricate or newspaper comment has endered it difficult to obtain a trial jury by the ordinary methods. A special Commissioner of Jurors at a

salary of \$6,000 a year, is to be appointed for each city by the Apellate Division of the Supreme Court, and the judgment of this officer is to be conclusive upon the question whether a proposed special juror s free from all legal exceptions or not!

It has been publicly stated that the Judges of the Appellate Division in this city, and particularly Mr. Justice BARRETT, favor the enactment of this measure.

In view of the doubtful constitutionality of the bill, we cannot believe this is so, While the Legislature may regulate the mode of procuring and impanelling juries in criminal cases, it cannot change the law in such a way as to deprive accused persons

of the right of trial by an impartial jury. It strikes us that it would be going very far toward this result to provide that the competency of the jurors should be in many essential particulars finally and conclusively determined, not by any one acting in a judicial capacity, but by a purely administrative officer, out of court. Just as well might the qualifications of the special jurors be left to the Clerk of the Court to pass upon, or to the Crier of the AppellateDivision.

Apart from the constitutional question, there is no need of such an elaborate scheme of jury-getting as is provided for in this bill. New York is the only city in the State where much time has been wasted in obtaining juries, even in the most important cases, and those most widely discussed in the newspapers. There have been criminal prosecutions of great public interest in Brooklyn and Buffalo and Troy within the last few years in which good juries have been impanelled within a reasonable time. May not the delay which has so often occurred in securing juries in " star cases in this city be due to some extent to the unnecessary latitude allowed to counsel by the Judges in the examination and cross-examination of proposed jurors? And would not more rigid rulings in this respect have a far greater effect in preventing the waste of weeks in getting a jury than the passage of a complicated statute of very doubtful constitutionality ?

# Demosthenes at Large.

We think so.

The East and the West, or New York and Chicago, or rather Columbia College and the Chicago University, or at least the Debating Union of the college and the Oratorical Society of the university, have agreed to hold a debate with each other, upon a question not yet given out, at a time not yet fixed. It was our boys that challenged the Chicago boys, who accepted the challenge the moment they got it. Good for both sides! The New York boys are happy in the thought of the match; the Chicago boys are impatient for the day when they will have a chance to lay out New York. It will be a match for glory, and so an interesting affair. This city is to be the place for it, with the assent of Chicago, which is not a bit afraid to come here. It will occur some day in April, any day that may suit Chicago. The Maroon, which speaks for the University of Chicago, prophesies that the debate will attract great attention everywhere, especially because no Western institution has ever before received a challenge from any Eastern college. The Columbia faculty are in hearty accord with the other faculty as to the match. An eminent statesman, name not yet announced, is to choose the subject for debate; distinguished members of the bench, Eastern and Western, are to be asked to serve as judges for the occasion. We are told that the students of each of the contending institutions are to strive for success with all their might, so that a judgment as to the relative argumentative powers of the East and the West, New York and Chicago, the college and the university, the Debating Union and the Oratorical Society, may be rendered without delay, and so that the bench may be unanimous in the award of honors that will mean fame broad as the United States. Which side do we take ! We refuse to take

any side until the debate shall come off and be brought to an end. Chicago took the Columbian Exposition from New York, and has just taken the National Democratic Convention. True enough, less brains were needed in these cases than in the case of the ingress at Caracas. It | them whenever she sees an opportunity for | debating match. Nevertheless, we must

await developments, and can only say that we are for fair play, while we have a right to our doubts. We cannot even promise to scept the opinion of the bench of judges. Anyhow, and in any event, we believe that the struggle between Chicago and New York for intellectual supremacy will be such as to reflect credit upon both places.

There has recently been a revival of the intercollegiate debating habit. Yale was the winner, a few weeks ago, in the second debate with Princeton. Now Harvard is preparing to tackle Princeton in March next. We hear from Cornell of a renewed interest in polemical contests there; and we have learned, after inquiry, that, within a year, debating has become more popular than ever in all our American institutions of learning. Senator GRAY of Delaware, who served as a judge in the Yale-Princeton debate, spoke of the value of these intellectual rivalries as a means of encouraging intellectual pursuits, and as a means for moderating the tendency to the undue exaltation of athletics. We ourselves have always appreciated their importance in promoting the mental improvement, not only of those who take part in them, but of others who are influenced by them.

We believe that the April debate between Columbia College and the University of Chicago will be of particular value in prompting many other institutions of the kind to encourage the growth of the custom of holding intercollegiate debates.

#### Mr. Roosevelt and the Mayor.

Mayor STRONG is reported to have changed his attitude toward Commissioner Rooss-VELT. A few weeks ago he described him in an after dinner speech as a bumptious young fellow who had got beyond his con-Now he is said to have declared to Mr. ROOSEVELT his purpose of standing by him to the end.

Let the Mayor stick to that determination.

It is both policy and duty for him to stand by the President of the Police Department, Except for Mr. ROOSEVELT, the administration of Mayor STRONG would be without force and distinction. His appointments generally have been of mediocre and colorless men, chosen solely as opponents of the political leadership of Mr. PLATT. The Police Magistrates selected by him have neither distinguished themselves nor reflected distinction on the Mayor's administration. The municipal officers elected on the same ticket with him have turned out to be a poor lot. Goff has brought the office of Recorder into disrepute for the first time during its long history. DAMSEN, or TAMsen, has disgraced the office of Sheriff. HOEBER is a laughing stock as a Coroner. Mayor STRONG himself has a variability of judgment and temper which have induced in his unfriendly critics the conviction that he is a trimmer, and even a man who has a light regard for his word. It is not always

easy to find where he is. Now, Mr. ROOSEVELT has the quality of character which Mayor STRONG lacks. There never is any doubt where he stands. Nobody, not even the most exasperated fiquor dealer, ever accused or suspected him of equivocation or of any purpose except to perform his duty as a public officer as he understood it to be. Everybody in New York knows that Mr. ROOSEVELT is a square and a brave man, and he is universally respected for that reason. We question if there is any more popular man in town than he. The people like his grit. They know that he is far above all interested and mean motives, and

is a gentleman through and through. This reputation, won and enjoyed by Mr. ROOSEVELT, is therefore of great value to the administration of Mayor STRONG, and the present municipal Government is peculiarly in need of such distinction as he confers on it. Without him, who could there be unless Col. WARING, to give mark and character to the rule of Reform?

The Mayor, accordingly, would be ungrateful and contemptible if he refused to stand by Mr. ROOSEVELT. Moreover, he would be stupid. If he lost Mr. ROOSEVELT his administration would lose all its snap. It would be deprived of its vital force, There would remain in it only a semblance of individual life. It would be without character, without color, and without ex cuse. THEODORE ROOSEVELT, and not WIL-LIAM L. STRONG, is the masterful personage in the municipal Government as it now is.

The perversity of lawless rogues, who will not do what is expected of them even when the reason for it is apparent to every one else, seems almost incredible. Why will not KILLORAN, RUSSELL, and ALLEN return to eustody, and thus relieve DAMSEN of one of the charges against him? The time for his answer expires on Saturday.

Have these men no sense of gratitude for the immunity from imprisonment which they have enjoyed, thanks to DAMSEN, since July 4? Do they wish to get him into trouble through their failure to return, when by coming back they can help his case? Is there no honor among Post Office thieves ? Have they no respect for a reform Sheriff and no sympathy with him in his drubbles?

We say to the friends of KILLORAN, ALLEN, and RUSSELL if such uncracious miscreants have any friends, that their refusal to return to prison and no questions asked can be accounted for only by the fact that escape would be difficult, if not impossible, from the custody of the Sheriff whom Governor MORTON will appoint in DAMSEN's stead. KILLORAN, RUSSELL, and ALLEN, come

back! The doors of the chail are still open. There are three unoccupied cells. Come back before Saturday, or DAMSEN may be oud, too!

It will be a plaster of comfort to the omewhat raw minds of the few college professors of the Von Holst and Wherler type to know that the great prophetic mathematician and millennium ready reckoner Torres is on their side. He " is very bitter against the Davis resolution." The accession of Mr. Tor-TEN brings to the Mugwump squad its first provision of intellectual and logical stores.

The discovery of immense fat new oil fields in Tennessee fills that State with hope and hustling, but leaves the Hon. HENRY CLAY EVANS, a candidate for the Vice-Presidency or any other satisfying job on the list, a little cold and inclined to pout. For the first time in his history, or the recent history of his State, his preëminency as a spouter is threatened.

The Hon. TIM BYRNES of Minneapolis and the Executive Committee of the Nationa League of Republican Clubs has won one event for that high-stepping concern, and will display his imperious beauty and talent for command as Sergeant-at-Arms of the Republican National Convention. The League has other and more important championships in Gen. ANTINOUS MCALPIN'S name stared from the bulletin boards in high relief a few weeks ago, when the impressive ticket of Allison and McAlpin sprang splendid from the brain of some combination thinker; and since then many ears have been laid upon the ground in delightful anticipation of the hour when the political trainers of Gen. McALPIN will announce that he is ready to hear the State of New York sek him to be Gevernor. He has many good gifts of fortune and person, and the four thou and other candidates for the Republican nomination for Governor may well view him with alarm. It is said that his declaration of intention will be made at a dinner of state in February by American artists, coming to the auction And there will be divers Republican statesme with no appetite that night. The League of Re-

ublican Clubs considers itself competent and is known to be willing to include great officehold ALPIN is rich in friends alike among the men of

While HAYES was elected President, his Democratic opponent, Tilder, carried this State.—Morning

Stuff! HAYES was never elected. He was put into the President's office by "fraud first triumphant in American history." He was a Fraudulent President.

It is interesting and instructive to note the effect produced on the London Times by what it considers as signs of weakening on the American side in the Venezuela dispute. American correspondent tells it that the Administration wants to settle the dispute peacefully, and that there is a "reaction" in the Senate; at the same time, Mr. Justice BREWER says the High Commission would be glad to have England present to it the evidence for her claims. Thereupon, the Times save that the British Government cannot recognize the High Commission in any way, directly or indirectly, and further, that if Venezuela wishes to make a private settlement with England, it might be one on the basis of substituting actual occupation for the Schomburgk line.

If the British Government does not choose to recognize the High Commission, that is its own affair. Congress and the American people recognize it, and will recognize and act on its re ort; and that is all the recognition needed. Great Britain does not approve the Monro octrine, directly or indirectly; yet all the same

It goes. As to recognizing actual occupation, as distinct from lawful occupation, as the basis for settling the dispute, it cannot be done. If the British Government should try to take that position, it would have to climb down. But the real point, so far as the London Times is concerned, is that imagined indications of a vield. ng here of the views which America holds maker British demands more uncompromising There is something suggestive in that.

There is much gooseflesh and irregularity of the pulse among some of the faithful in Ohio because the Hon. THOMAS COLLIER PLATT has talked with the Hon. JOSEPH BENSON FOR-KER. Perhaps it would be more exact to say ecause Mr. FORAKER has talked to Mr. PLATT. These anxious spirits in the Western Preserve and other demesnes of Buckeyedom should take a sleeping powder and lie down to pleasant freams. There is no danger that the man from Cincinnati will stampede the man from Owego. Mr. PLATT's nerves are strong, and he doesn't quali even before the multitudinous lips of Mr. FORAKER. And there is absolutely no danger that Mr. FORAKER will ever learn silence of discretion from Mr. PLATT or any other man of woman born.

The Right Hon. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN will deposit his present monocie in the Hank of England, and use a burning glass for his third eye when that orb is fixed in menace upon the Hon, CECH. RHODES. When Mr. RHODES meets he Eye, will it or he quall first? Will Birmingham or South Africa come off victor in the wigging" match? If Joseph is cool, Cecil. is not absolutely bashful; and the betting should remain even. At the same time that third eye is an eldritch and disagreeable thing; and a majestic flunkey at the Cariton Club upon whom it was fixed, calmly but for too long an exposure, on account of a delay in the transportation of Scotch and soda last Monday night, was taken with severe chills and had a series of fits. It will be only a reasonable precaution for Mr. RHODES to wear two or three bushels of dia monds when he meets the Sccretary of State for the Colonies and try to counteract his paralyzing glare.

"Stabling for booms" signs were stuck ip all over St. Louis just as soon as the Hon. JOSEPH HENRY MANLEY, the Hon. WIL-LIAM MCKINLEY HARN, and the Hon. J. SUL-IVAN CLARKSON appeared; and the Hon THOMAS HENRY CARTER, Chairman, actually talked off a quarter section of his unrivalled silver chin carpet in descanting feverishly of the ineffable charms of the great white dollar. Fun in St. Louis already; and millions more of it to come,

A Massachusetts man has petitioned the Great and General Court that any person who goes to a game of any sort on Memorial Day shall be fined roundly. This proposition seems to be another attack upon one of the most im portant, though not the most successful, of Massachusetts industries. Most Massachusetts men would have such a twitching of the nerves and pain of the neck, if they couldn't go to a baseball game on the afternoon of Memorial Day, that their heads would drop off. The ancient institution called Fast Day had to be put to death on account of the ineradicable tendency of the descendants of the Paritans and Pilgrims and others to play ball or see it played on that day. It is possible, however, in view of the omparative decline of the Boston nine, that the old fever has moderated a little. Time was that the record of that nine was a part of the school histories, and was solemnly taught and com nitted to memory by every pupil of the public schools. But the mighty have fallen off.

The persons who have charge of the St Louis Exposition building should be compelled to strengthen all the supports thereof before the Populists meet there in July. The jarring of the wheels will be most dangerous.

## Rag, Tag, and Bobtall Spelling.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUS-Sir: In reading over the Regents' syllabus and the Regents' examination pa pers recently I was very much surprised to see, as I then thought, that several words were spelt wrong. Upon inquiry I have learned that they have a method of their own, untaught and unknown in our public schools and in our "Free Academy." All the examinations for admission to the lear and all the medical examinations are, under our new law, held under the supervision of the logents, and I ask you, for the benefit of the many who are preparing for the various professions, whether their method has your sanction. They have asked questions about the "hypotenus" of right-angled triangles, about how to "catalog" various books, and went to knew various things about "Micheinagelo." Piease help out a few young students. Yours, &c. M. S. 14, 24. of their own, untaught and unknown in our public ous things about "Michelangelo," few young students. Yours, &c., Jan. 21.

The spelling to which our correspondent refers, and which we deem detestable, is probably the work of the Secretary of the Board of Regents, who entertains extreme views in respect to orthography. The Regents ought to stop the use of this rag, tag, and bobtail spelling in their examination papers without delay.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUX Ser. The stand you have taken in the Venezuela question must give joy to every American heart. The editorial in Dec. 21 is one of the most stirring I ever read. Living off here one needs such patriotism. If there is a war, the country can count on one

True Americanism in Paris.

Tom Reed Mistaken for Cleveland. From the St. Louis Republic.
One evening Tom Reed was dining at a swell Washington restaurant. A newspaper correspondent desir-ing to see him on important business. peered into the dining room, but did not recognize him. The landiced went in and brought Mr. Reed out, whereupon the

Pants, France, Jan. 5.

F. EDWIN ELWER.

scribe said: "I saw you in there, but mistook you for President Cleveland," Reed, solemn as an led: "For Heaven's sake, never let Cleveland know that; for he is too vain of his beauty now. Worth Trying. I rom the Oracle, Terra Alia, W. Va. THE SUNDAY BUS Is the greatest Sunday paper in the United States, and its columns contain the choicest reading matter gathered from all parts of the world.

From the Washington Evening Times.

The time to recognize Cuba is now, when our sympathy and moral support are most needed.

If you want a great, big weekly paper at a low price

# PAINTINGS BY AMERICANS.

It is not often that a collection of paintings

me Works of More than Ordinary Inter est to Be Sold at Auetton.

ck, contains so many works of interesting qualities as are to be found in the exhibition of pictures that were sold last night at Ortgies's Fifth Avenue Art Galleries, which is described in the catalogue, a trifle grandiloquently, as masterpieces in landscape and superb figure subjects." There are not many masterpleces here; but on the other hand, there are a few pictures of a good deal of merit, some of them of really surprising qualities to such a collection. The catalogue includes a lot of names that are preëminent in modern American art, and some of them are represented by worthy works. Indeed, in several important instances the paintings shown here are exhibited for the first time in public, Wyant's "Sunrise in the Adirondacks" and Inness's "Sundown at Pompton, N. J.," both worthy works of justly distinguished painters, were exhibited recently at the Union League club. The Wyant is full and rich in tone, and the Inness, but one of several in the collection. is still the most important of them all. The other Innesses are the "View from the Grove." the "North Woods," a good example; an interesting bit, "The Old House at Medfield, Mass.," painting never before shown; "Close of Harvest Day," soft and restful in sentiment; a small bit called "Autumn Tints," and a little thing called "Midsummer."

But the feature of this show lies in a few bite of tone, works of early painters, or early works f present painters. There is, for example, a "Portrait of Himself," by the late George Fuller, that, besides being characteristic both in method and resemblance, is mellow and fine in color, and by the same brush are some "Cherubs" that are mystical, as they should be, and like his well-known manner.

By Henry Inman, whose pictures are not often met with nowadays, is a "Portrait of Miss S." (Miss Stebbins, the sculptress, in fact) that is interesting: there is a "Portrait" by Sully, and a fine one, too, by William Page of "Gen. Scott" that is full of ripe, mellow qualities of color, and that has never been offered for sale before although exhibited once or twice. By Benjamin West there is an old-fashioned.

but undoubtedly genuine, painting of the "Expulsion from Eden," that finds its best interest in its signature. There is a bit by William Hunt, too, that has increased interest from the name of its author, a study of "Apple Blossoms," a simple thing in attractive color.

Besides these earlier works, in which tone is the real quality that is especially admirable, are a fine "Portrait" by the late Samuel Waldo a picture of a florid-faced woman in a ruff, that would pass on a pinch for an early English master; a beautiful Tryon, "New Bedford, Mass." gray and good; and several very strong characteristic paintings, and a single water color by Winslow Homer, including "Autumn Leaves," a figure of a woman (Mrs. Freer, in fact) in the costume of thirty years ago, standing on a hillside, with the russet leaves all about her on the billside; and such other capable and admirable works as Trego's "Forward," several early paintings by J. Francis Murphy, very different in quality and tone from his work of to-day, R. A. Blakelock, Charles H. Davis, W. A. Sonntag, F. E. Church, and William Hart. The pictures by Mr. Church and Mr. Hart are not to be confused with their

Then, too, John La Farge has a "Tiger's Head " that is instinct with feroclous character, and there is a study by Mr. Chase that is catalogued as a "Portrait." Mr. Louis Moeller has half a dozen clever, careful bits of characterization and there are other paintings of more than usual interest by George W. Maynard, Siddons Mowbray, the late C. R. Grant, Charles F. Ulrich, George De Forrest Brush, A. P. Ryder, Bruce Crane, J. H. Dolph, J. G. Tyler, Marie Guise Newcomb, D. F. Hasbrouck, Charles X. Harris, George H. Smillie, and Henry W.

With these paintings were a lot of fine examples of Oriental art in old-metals, cloisonné enamels and antique bronzes, old porcelains in everal colors, all comprising works of the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries. and of the sort that it is no longer easy to pick up at random. These were sold in the afternoon.

## Nothing Done As Yet.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It is my humble opinion that we are in the midst of a time fraught with dangers to our institutions that may be rendered calamities by the inde cision and procrastination of our Representatives in Washington. A full month has elapsed since the President's patriotic message was sent to Congress, and yet what have we done? What have we accomplished in the way of strengthening the harbor fortifications of even the more important cities on our seaboard, which in the event of war would surely be the objective points for the attacks of hostile fleets?

Our "consins" in England and our neighbors on the north are giving us an object lesson, and it would be well for our people to profit by it.

We read of the activity in the English navy yards, in Hailfax, in Esquimoult, and Santa Lucia, and yet we stand idly by and waste the days that may be precious to the nation's safety.

Lucia, and yet we stand islly by and waste the days that may be precious to the nation's safety, induking our vanity with the fond delusion that England dares not go to war with us.

It is a time for action, not argument, a time when the rivalry of partisanship should give place to the nation's needs.

The unanimity and patriotism that characterized the reception of the President's message by Congress should now be turned to account in placing the country on at least a defensive footing.

The old maxim of "The stitch in time," &c., is pertinent at this juncture, and its wholesome advice should be acted upon at once. A month hence it may be too late. Let the councillors look to the safety of the republic.

look to the safety of the republic.

W. J. KAYANAGH,

131 East Thirty-ninth street.

## How to Stop a Bleycle Down Hill.

To the Epiton of The Sun-Sir: There is no de partment of THE Sex that I read with greater interest than its bicycle news. As an amateur wheelman I am interested in the doings of brother wheelmen at the chief city of the Empire State. But it is astonishing to me the statements I read concerning the matter of braking. A recent issue of The Sus quotes a young woman as saying: "No matter how perfectly a person back pedals, emergencies are bound to arise in crowded city streets when both back pedalling and a brake are necessary to stop a wheel with the neces-

cyclists ride down hills almost as steep as the side of a house, we use no brakes and do no back pedalling. With one foot on a coaster and the other in the front fork, with my sole pressing on the front fire. I can come to a speedy stop even while going down the steepest hill, it is remorkable that this method of braking is never advocated or indulged in on the Atlantic coast. braking is never advocated or indulged in on the Atla few weeks ago I took a spin through your beautful Central Park. With the fate of the lake of Marbursuch in mind, when I came to a hill I kept
ful Central Park. With the fate of the lake of Marbursuch in mind, when I came to a hill I kept
my feet on the pedals and 'book pedalled'.
But how tame and inefficient this is compared
with the plan I have suggested! It will not do
to say that the three are injured by my method. A
smooth-soled shoe pressing on the tire is less injurious
to the tire than the pressure of a metal brake.
Will Tip S'y please call attention to this method of
braking? Then, terhaps, the man on a brakeless
wheel tearing down a steep city hill, with his pedals
lost, will not, on coming to the corner, run into a
nate glass window or get struck by a cable care com
ing in a direction at right angles to the direction
which the birectic is traveling.

Mandan, N. D. Jam. 17.

In this part of the world where I live, where bi-

#### Sentiment Sound-Language Poor. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUS- Ir: Have you care

fully read the Davis resolution? It is all right as to scattingent, but the language, the English ye gods! Let it be passed in decent English. In its present hape it reads like a hastily drawn law just emerged from a cheap best lature. Turn the see's light on it, Mr. Editor, and if this measure is to be adopted and to become, as it surely will one of the most moneye-tous short documents over issued in the history of nations, let us have it in the hencause of educated men not in language which will make our descentmen not in language white ants blue; for us New York, Jan. 22.

#### Another Modest Maiden Spraks. To THE EUROR OF THE SUX-Sire: I have just fin-

hed reading in to day's Sex the interesting letter headed, "She Would like to be Married "from M. F. H. I fully agree with the writer, as it is almost my I am a young lady, have been a housekeeper two years, but I go out a few more times than the writer. I know a few young men but hearty all our more to the society of those who are always going to bails and parties, and then they say give are extraorant. If they would only look about them they would see others that are not.

Harper's Magazine for February offers an attractive table of contents, and much good reading. There is history, and history disgulated as fiction. and humor and pathos, and a farre by Mr. Ranga. Mr. Poultney lifetow's "German Struggle for Lib-erty" is continued, and so is Mr. William Black's interesting experiment in bringing modern Greece and

## RAPID TRANSIT DIFFICULTIES.

#### New Danger Brought to Light-No More Building on Brondway.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The writer f an article last summer sent to one of the leading papers in this city, had it returned, presumably because of its statement that over one hundred millions would be involved in the cost of this underground tunnel construction, and that no one, after curiosity in a novelty had been eatisfied by a ride through and return, would patonize the road, but would take their chances of obtaining a seat in lines above the earth for their regular daily travel. To-day we find experts testifying that over \$50,000,000 will be

perts testifying that over \$50,000,000 will be required to reach only so far as Union square at Fourteenth street.

I would call attention to a phase of the problem which has not yet been publicly considered. Assuming that the greater majority of the foundations of buildings on Broadway along the route of the rapid transit railway tunnel, with its side chambers for sewer, water, and other pine lines, are below the tunnel and side chamber foundations, and assuming that these buildings have all been successfully shored up, underpined, and the tunnel completed, there remains the appalling fact, for owners of property on Broadway to consider, that whenever a structure known as a "sky scraper" is built, it will be necessary to begin the foundations at a level far below the level of this tunnel and its side chamber foundations, offtimes, if not always, going down to rock which varies to a depth of fifty to seventy feet below the surface of Broadway.

The elements which appall consist in the cost of properly holding in place this tunnel both during the tall building secondaria and after.

The elements which appall consist in the cost of properly helding in place this tunnel both during the tall building sconstruction and afterward, and the danger that will be entailed to assengers in the tunnel rains at the same time. The tunnel must be underpinned by foundations built beneath it as far down as the lowest foundation of the adjoining building. The mere holding in place of the walls of the tunnel is no great diffculty. But to maintain underneath the tunnel the earth, while sheet piling and shoring during the vibration caused by passing trains, is the dangerous feature. No one can tell what displacement of earth is taking place underneath the readbeds or the pipe galleries on their contemplated concrete bearings on the earth.

place underneath the roadbeds or the pipe galleries on their contemplated concrete bearings on the earth.

The sinking of a rail out of level and out of rauge would precipitate instant disaster. This might not occur in certain cases at the time of construction of the adjoining building, but afterward, perhaps not for months, and for the following reason: The joints of the water mains or sewers, owing to the settlement of the earth caused by friction of the street piling while being driven during the jarring of the trains, would be started sufficient to produce a slight leakage, and this would in time cause the vibrating earth under the roadbeds to settle with results as described above. It can, therefore, be understood that the mere underpinning of the side walls of the tunnel, enormous as is will be, and done at varying intervals of time by different contractors, leaving larged lines of support along the length of the tunnel according to the location of these "sky scrapers," is not a sufficient warrant or security against possible or even probable accident, the only real safety being in building the entire width and length of the tunnel and its side chambers on foundations which have the primitive rock of the planet for their support.

their support.

I am aware that some may differ as to the full import of this statement. But many to whom I have communicated my ideas fully agree with me.

J. W. MOLLTON.

Dr. Opdyke's Statement in the Babcock Case, TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Permit me to make the following statement in reference to the late Courtlandt Babcock.

I positively did not remove the dressings placed by Dr. Smith, as stated in the papers of Monday. I added simply sufficient additional bandages to prevent further hemorrhage from the wound. Nor did I, in any way, disturb the patient. His head alone was gently raised by me only sufficiently high to place dressings over the wound. I found his condition so serious

the wound. I found his condition so serious that I made no attempt to remove him to the hospital. Again, I did not make a discourteous remark to any of the family present.

To these assertions, made by me, the three colice officers who were present at the time will testify. As to the relations existing between me and Dr. Smith, who did not arrive until after the death of the patient, I am quite sure they were of the most pleasant nature. This has been already confirmed by Dr. Smith himself in his letter to the press. Resnectfully.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.

#### An Ancient English Word,

TO THE EMPOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In your paper of resterday you had an article on the growth and uses of peculiar words, among others the word "crank," n which it was stated that Mr. Donn Platt claimed to be the author of the present use of that word. Remembering that I had seen it in "Eurton's Anstomy of Melancholy." a book first published in 1621. I spent a little time in hunting for it, but failed to find I spent a little time in bouting for it, but failed to find the page to which my attention had been previously attracted; but I feund it used on page 461 of the first volume, published by W. J. Widdleton, N. V. 1870, partition I, section V. No. 4, sub-section 6.

I trust that some one may have read the book more carefully and remember the page upon which I first observed it. Very truly yours,

NEWARK, Jan. 20.

NEWARK, Jan. 20.

The Poet Laurente a Truthteller. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUX-SIF: There seems to be one redeeming feature in the makeup of Alfred Aus tin, namely, truthfulness. In his "Jameson's Ride"

he says:
"We were wrong, but we aren't half sorry." What a true delineation of British characte What a true delineation of British character and British principle. The poetical mouthplees of the British nation herein boddy proclaims to the world that serong or right, trent british nation herein boddy proclaims to the world that serong or right, trent british never repents. At though in this idiotic babble on "Jameson's Ride" he has han entably distraced himself as a poet, he has proved to the world that for truthfulness he deserved to rank with our own Washington, as he seems totally incapable of belling a lie.

HARTFORD, CODE, Jan. 20.

## Brooklyn Saloon Keepers.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It is alleged that n future Brooklyn saloon keepers will refuse to serve Sunday customers who cannot guarantee to keep their sisters, cousins, and aunts away from the their sisters, cousing, and mints away from the Mayor's office; for it is said that personal grievances figure more prominently in these rabis than is generally supposed. If this is true, may it not be a case of the chase-attempting to remove the effect, and is there not great danger of our dear. Mayor himself being driven to intemperance or sometting like that? I believe at present he is, like your humble servant, a Moderate.

## Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

Prince Edward of York being now a year and a half old is to be reproduced in a life size marble statue. British officers in Dublin must wear moustaches, by order of Lord Frankfort de Montmorency, the Genera

An expedition under Prof. Sollas will leave Sydney oon for the South Sea Islands to make deep boring n coral atolis.

Princess Helena of England (Princess Christian of

Schleswig Holstein) is writing a book of etiquette for women in good society.
Emmanuel Church, Lambeth, has just set up an alspaster and green marble reredos, carved by a work ingman in the congregation in memory of his wife.

Jameson's raid has again brought out the defects of the small calibre bullet, one man is said to have had a hole drilled through his brain by a bullet and to be recovering. Philip Reciam, the publisher, founder of the "Universal Bibliothes" of classical German books and translations at two and a half cents apiece, died re-

senting in Liepzig. For the first time the Finster-Aarhorn, the highest of the Bernese Alps, has been climbed in winter. Prof. Fischer, with the guide Aimer, accomplished the feat

a couple of weeks ago.

Count Henckel von Donnersmarck, the last descend-ant of Goetho, who died recently in Germany, was the man who married the notorious adventuress at the

court of Napoleon III., Mmc. de l'aiva. Prof. Reinkens, since 1873 Hishop of the German old Catholies, died recently at Ronn. Till the protess of the fourteen professors against the Vatican decrees he had been Professor of Theology at Breslau. Friedrich Haase has just bidden farewell to the stage at Berlin, on the fiftieth anniversary of his first appearance. He acted in New York in 1881 at the ermania Theatre, now the Star, when Neuendor ried to make German plays pay on upper Broadway. Eleonora buse has received the rare honor of the medal for arts and selences from the King of Sweden. She also received the King's photograph with his autograph, but carned it by listening to King Oscal while he played and sang to her a ballad of his own

amposition. Robert Burns's great grandson and namesake, his last descendant in the direct male line, has just died at Blackhail, near lainburgh, aced 52 years. He had served as a soldier and as a gardener in the Edinburgh Public funders, but for fourteen years past had been keeper of the powder magazine at Black-hall. He left no children. Blatmass of air with less than 7.7 per cent, of acety-

iene burn completely to water and carbon dioxide, according to M. Let bete by r's experiments, reported to the Academie sice belonces; with between 7.7 and 17.4 per cent of acet tene the products consist of 17.4 per cent of acet lene the products consist of water, carbon monoxide and dioxide, and hydrogen; with a larger is reculage of acetylene free carbon and unburnt a ctylene are found. With oxygen mixtures containing between 25 and 23 per cent of acetylens will eatch fire with air, the limits are 2.8 and 65 per cent. In tubes these theirs are narrowed down, till in tutes of one haif a madimetre or less it is imposstule to propagate a flame.

# Wind.

"Those old Greeks seem to have had a god for at-most everything. I wonder they did not have a god for prize tighting." They did. His name was kotus."

I row the Indianapolis Journal.